

do they adhere to any international agreement. They fight outside the box; whereas, our sense of what is right and wrong constrains us to adhere to recognized rules of engagement.

We all know the self-professed leader of al-Qaida is Osama bin Laden. His call to arms for his disciples is: Death is better than living on this Earth with the unbelievers amongst us.

We know Iraq is central to the war on terror because Osama bin Laden said it is. He said:

The most serious issue today for the whole world is this third world war that is raging in Iraq.

Zawahiri, Osama bin Laden's deputy, described Iraq as "the place for the greatest battle of Islam in this era."

Remember the blind sheikh? He was responsible for the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. From his prison cell, he has called on Muslims everywhere to "tear them apart, ruin their economy, instigate against their corporations, destroy their embassies, attack their interests, sink their ships, and shoot down their airplanes; kill them on land, at sea, in the air; kill them wherever you find them."

Those were their words, Mr. President. We are at war with an enemy that wants to see America wiped off the map. This is an enemy bent on destruction and Islamic domination—or at least their vision of Islam. Their goal is to establish a violent political utopia across the Middle East—which they call a caliphate—where all would be ruled according to their hateful ideology.

Osama bin Laden has called the 9/11 attacks, in his words, "a great step toward the unity of Muslims and establishing the righteous caliphate." There are reports that some of Osama bin Laden's supporters believe that he is the Mahdi, the 12th Imam. The Mahdi will lead believers in Islam to victory over the infidels, ushering in an era of peace and justice.

Even Iran's President is on record as instructing America, in his words:

If you would like to have good relations with the Iranian nation in the future, bow down before the greatness of the Iranian nation and surrender. If you don't accept to do this, the Iranian nation will force you to surrender and bow down.

Those are the Iranian President's own words. It is not farfetched to believe that with nuclear weapons in his possession, he would use them to usher in this cataclysmic confrontation that he seeks. We must take these threats seriously and act accordingly.

Remember, the terrorists are traitors to their own faith trying, in effect, to hijack Islam itself. The enemy of America is not our many Muslim friends; it is not our many Arab friends. Our enemy is a radical network of terrorists and every government that supports them.

The terrorists' directive commands them to kill Christians and Jews, to kill all Americans, and make no distinction among military leaders, ordi-

nary troops, and civilians, including women and children. They want to overthrow existing governments in many Muslim countries such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan. They want to drive Israel out of the Middle East. They want to drive Christians and Jews out of vast regions of Asia and Africa. These terrorists kill not merely to end lives but to disrupt and end a way of life. With every atrocity, they hope that America grows fearful, retreating from the world and forsaking our friends. They stand against us because we stand in their way.

We cannot be deceived by their pretenses to piety. We have seen their kind before. They are the heirs of all the murderous ideologies of the 20th century.

By sacrificing human life to serve their radical visions, by abandoning every value except power, they follow the path of fascism and Nazism and totalitarianism. They will follow that path all the way to where it ends: In history's unmarked graves of discarded lies.

This is not, however, just America's fight. And what is at stake is not just America's freedom. This is the world's fight. This is civilization's fight. This is the fight for all who believe in progress and pluralism, tolerance, and freedom.

The war we fight today is more than a military conflict; it is the decisive ideological struggle of the 21st century. Make no mistake: this is an enemy we cannot appease; this is an enemy we must defeat.

On September 11, 2001, and the days immediately following, this country stood united. We stood ready to protect all Americans. We must continue to show a united front against this enemy. We must understand that what we say has great consequences. If our enemy sees the country divided, it will also see an opportunity and a path to victory.

During our Civil War, General Lee often read northern papers to gauge the mood of the population in the North. As he saw the political discourse and the division among northern leaders prior to Gettysburg, he believed that it would take only one more victory to win the war. Lucky for us, the victory never came, but we can learn from Lee's lesson.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 30 more seconds.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, al-Qaida reads our newspapers and watches our television stations. They see the lack of resolve in some of our leaders and they seek to exploit it. This is the time to lead, a time to unite, and a time to defeat an enemy that wants to bring an end to freedom around the world. We must lay down our party labels as Republicans, Democrats, or Independents and become Americans. We must not tire. We must not falter. We cannot fail.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Louisiana is recognized.

OSAMA BIN LADEN STILL LOOSE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I came to the floor to speak briefly about one of our outstanding superintendents in Louisiana and to pay tribute to an accomplishment that has been made on education. But in light of the rantings that went on for the last 30 minutes in the Chamber from my two colleagues on the other side, I would like to state for the RECORD that America is not tired of fighting terrorism. America is tired of the wrong-headed and bone-headed leadership of the Republican Party that has sent \$6.5 billion a month to Iraq, when the front line was Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia. America is tired of leadership which led this country to attack Saddam Hussein when we were attacked by Osama bin Laden, and which captured a man who did not attack the country and left loose a man who did.

Americans are tired of bone-headed Republican leadership that alienates our allies when we need them the most. And Americans are most certainly tired of leadership that, despite documented mistake after mistake after mistake—and even their own party admitting mistakes—never admits that they do anything wrong. That is the kind of leadership Americans are tired of.

I didn't come to the Senate to have partisan rantings on the floor, but I most certainly am not going to sit here as a Democrat and let the Republican leadership come to the floor and talk about how Democrats are not making us safe. They are the ones who are in charge, and Osama bin Laden is still loose.

RECOGNIZING LOUISIANA'S MADISON PARISH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, now I will speak about what I came to the floor to speak about. We have had a very difficult time in Louisiana and Mississippi and the gulf coast this year, in part because our resources are short because our country is involved in so many other things, and I can appreciate and understand the dilemmas. But we still have a great effort underway to rebuild Louisiana, Mississippi, and the gulf coast. So we have been moving steadily ahead in fits and starts because, of course, this was an unprecedented disaster. And while it really wasn't a natural disaster for Louisiana, it was a manmade disaster because our city went under water and the region, counties in Mississippi and parishes in Louisiana—for instance, one of our parishes, not New Orleans which we have heard a lot about, but St. Bernard Parish which sits right outside of New Orleans, 75,000 people live there, and every home was destroyed and every church was ruined

and every business was destroyed. They were ruined not just because of the storms and the hurricanes which come and there is nothing much we can do to stop them, but because the levees broke which the Federal Government is supposed to maintain, and because of spending money in other places and not protecting people in their homes.

So as my colleagues know, we had water 15 feet high that stood for up to 6 to 8 and sometimes 10 weeks in some places. Our communities have been struggling with how we might better approach the recovery should something—and I see my colleague from Seattle, WA—should a tsunami hit Seattle, which is a major, very important American city, or should a category 5 storm hit Long Island like it did in 1938 when only a few hundred thousand people lived there but now millions of people do. We need to do a better job of responding. So Congress has been involved in that for this last year, and I predict will be involved in it for many years to come until we get it right.

But one of the things that we did get right is that the northern parishes of Louisiana came to the aid of those from the southern parishes, and one of those parishes that I am here to speak briefly about is Madison Parish. It is a small parish up in the northeastern part of our State, and it is a poor parish. It has great natural resources and very vibrant and vital agricultural land, but it is quite poor, generally. It is a district with only 3,000 students in school. But as the people fled from south Louisiana and south Mississippi and southeastern Texas to flee from the rising water of the storms, many of them found their way to Madison Parish.

Madison Parish superintendent Michael Johnson led this effort to absorb several hundred students into a very small school system that was already overburdened. The storm didn't, of course, hit Madison Parish directly but, of course, indirectly they were impacted by some high winds that made it up to north Louisiana, and were mostly impacted by students and families who ran there for shelter. There were many shelters put up. Superintendent Johnson, as many superintendents in north Louisiana, reached out their hands and, without a lot of help, without any textbooks, without a lot of information about how this was supposed to happen, took the children in. Not only did children find a safe place in Madison Parish school systems to attend school because their schools in south Louisiana were ruined, but with all of this, Madison Parish was one of the parishes that improved their test scores substantially on the last LEAP test given in Louisiana. Not only did their scores improve, but students and educators in Madison Parish at the same time were welcoming evacuated children with open arms.

Madison Parish is not the only parish that saw a substantial rise in test scores this year. Beauregard Parish has

also done well. We are very proud of all of our school systems that did better in a very difficult year, but most certainly we are proud of those small, poor, rural school systems that, with good leadership, are making substantial progress.

We don't talk enough about education on the floor of the Senate, in my view, and we don't often at all talk about the small areas of our country that are making extraordinary progress in less populated areas. We talk a lot about New York and Chicago and Los Angeles, but we don't always get to hear about small places that are not even recognizable sometimes to many people on the map. But since I visited Madison Parish recently and had a great tour of north Louisiana, I thought I would take a minute to come and praise publicly this particular superintendent and to call attention to many of our superintendents who, despite the fact that we keep cutting their Federal funding, are managing to meet these high standards and to lift their children up and to make their school system and others better for the future of our States and our region.

Superintendent Johnson has been the impetuous for Madison Parish's recent success. Interestingly, Superintendent Johnson was working as superintendent of schools for New York City's District 29 when terrorists attacked the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Superintendent Johnson took over in August before Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit and proceeded with the same positive energy he embodied in New York. The Madison Parish School District now has improved their LEAP test scores by reducing the percentage of students scoring Unsatisfactory and increased the percentage of students scoring Basic and above. They have also reduced suspensions at the elementary and middle school levels.

Not only have their scores improved, but the students and educators of Madison Parish have welcomed the evacuated children with open arms. Under Superintendent Johnson's leadership, they used their resources to provide the children lunch, buy clothes, books and other necessary items. They provided increased after school programs so these students would spend less time in shelters and have some sense of normalcy. The students and staff helped the displaced children and teachers begin to replace their personal possessions and helped them work through their feelings in the crisis. This was something that Superintendent Johnson understood very well from his experiences in New York and added to his success in caring for the children taken in after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita by Madison Parish.

As students come back into southern Louisiana and begin the new school year, I would like to recognize how beautifully our students were welcomed into schools systems like Madison Parish. Superintendent Johnson

and his community are an example of the best in our society—the generosity and compassion that is found in the hearts of our people. I also want all of us to look to the Madison Parish School System and to Superintendent Michael Johnson as an example of how a low performing school can, not only turn their scores around, but offer help to those students who are less fortunate.

Thank you to all students, teachers, principals and superintendents who have taken that extra step and worked harder, improved their test scores and opened their arms and hearts to those who were affected by the storms. We should all live by this example. In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to the Madison Parish schools system and to Superintendent Michael Johnson for taking education seriously and improving their test scores while providing a safe, healthy learning environment for all children.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

REMEMBERING ANN RICHARDS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise this morning on a very sad note for all of us who knew a very special, wonderful woman by the name of Governor Ann Richards. Last night she left this world, but she left behind a tremendous spirit that many of us will carry on. She was the kind of woman who could walk into a room and light it up, no matter where she was. She was a Governor of Texas, and I know that State knew and loved her well, but the rest of the country also loved her.

I was privileged to know this wonderful, compassionate human being. She made me laugh, she made me think, and she made me remember what I cared most about in this country. Her loss is a tragic one certainly for the State of Texas, certainly for the country, but absolutely for every one of us who knew her.

I know many people will be speaking throughout the next several days about the loss of Governor Richards, but I just wanted, on behalf of so many of us who cared for her so much, to express our condolences to all of her family, to her friends, to everyone who knew her, and to let them know that we will not forget and we will continue to carry her message of hope and passion as we continue in our lives.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, how much time do the Democrats have remaining?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There is 10 minutes remaining.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 4 minutes of that time, if I could.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes to add to Senator MURRAY's heartfelt and beautiful tribute to Governor Ann